



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Mental Health
Director of Public Social Services

At its meeting held September 16, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Molina and Antonovich:

“Last year, the Departments of Public Social Services and Mental Health collaborated with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to conduct a small, six-month pilot to assist 27 homeless CalWORKs families in the Skid Row area find permanent housing and provide supportive services; the project was a great success. All of the families found housing, 12% of them found jobs, and the impact on their children was enormous. The children began going to school and most attended counseling with their parents. As a whole, the project had a significant impact on the well-being of families.

“Today the Departments of Public Social Services and Mental Health and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) are working collaboratively again to assist homeless CalWORKs families. Recognizing funding is limited, as public officials we are obligated, if only for small projects, to reach out and do as much as we can to move mothers and children off the streets into safe, permanent housing.

“While we need to continue our efforts on Skid Row where the numbers of homeless families are increasing, we must also recognize that there are other areas of the County where homelessness is increasing. The Departments of Public Social Services and Mental Health and LAHSA will conduct two small projects, involving 20 families each, in both the Skid Row and San Gabriel Valley, which may have over 2,700 homeless families.

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“If the pilot is successful and funding is available, this model involving outreach, intervention/crisis counseling, public assistance, mental health services, and multi-disciplinary case management, could be implemented Countywide.

“While no additional funding is needed by the Department of Public Social Services or the Department of Mental Health to conduct this pilot project, LAHSA has indicated additional funding is needed to conduct its outreach and provide transportation, intervention and crisis counseling. The Director of Public Social Services has indicated it has sufficient funding within its budget to cover these allowable costs. The Department of Public Social Services currently has a contract with LAHSA to administer the Homeless Assistance Program which, if supplemented, could be used as the vehicle to fund LAHSA’s services.

“The Department of Mental Health will support this project within its current CalWORKs mental health allocation. It will amend existing CalWORKs mental health contracts to cover the additional services and assign additional resources to directly operate programs.

“We therefore recommend that the Board take the following actions:

1. Delegate to the Director of Public Social Services the authority to amend the contract with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), effective October 1, 2003, to increase the maximum contract amount by no more than \$190,000 to cover additional services to conduct its outreach and provide transportation, intervention and crisis counseling, from October 2003 to June 2004, to assist CalWORKs families in the Skid row area find permanent housing;
2. Instruct the Director of Mental Health, in consultation with the Director of Public Social Services, to identify one or more current CalWORKs mental health contractors to participate in the San Gabriel Valley pilot. The identified contractor(s) shall have expertise in working with members of the target populations. After the identification of the contractor(s), the Director of Mental Health shall be given the authority to amend existing contracts to cover additional services for October 2003 through June 2004; and

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3. Request the Directors of Mental Health, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and Public Social Services to create and implement an evaluation plan which includes performance measures and outcomes to determine the effectiveness of such programs in addressing the plight of homeless families.”

Bryce Yokomizo, Director of Public Social Services, and Ethel Johnson addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Burke made a suggestion that Supervisors Molina and Antonovich’s aforementioned recommendations be amended to also instruct the Director of Public Social Services to include in his evaluation plan report to the Board by July 2004, recommendations on how to expand the program assisting homeless CalWORKs families in finding permanent housing to other areas throughout Los Angeles County, including the Long Beach area.

On motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Authorized the Director of Public Social Services to amend the contract with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), effective October 1, 2003, to increase the maximum contract amount by no more than \$190,000 to cover additional services to conduct its outreach and provide transportation, intervention and crisis counseling, from October 2003 to June 2004, to assist CalWORKs families in the Skid row area find permanent housing;
2. Instructed the Director of Mental Health, in consultation with the Director of Public Social Services, to identify one or more current CalWORKs mental health contractors who have expertise in working with members of the target populations, to participate in the San Gabriel Valley pilot involving 20 homeless CalWORKs families;
3. Authorized the Director of Mental Health to amend existing contracts to cover additional services for October 2003 through June 2004;

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4. Requested the Directors of Mental Health, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and Public Social Services to create and implement an evaluation plan which includes performance measures and outcomes to determine the effectiveness of the programs in addressing the plight of homeless families; and
5. Instructed the Director of Public Social Services to include in his evaluation plan report to the Board, by July 2004, recommendations on how to expand the program to assist homeless CalWORKs families in finding permanent housing in areas throughout Los Angeles County, including the Long Beach area.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

Letter sent to:

Executive Director, Los Angeles Homeless
Services Authority